

## Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OES-03 COME-00 NASA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /072 W

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R 230902Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2234

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CSAF WASHDC

ADC/ENT AFB CO/DOF/LGP

14TH AEROF ENT AFB CO/DO

6917 SEC GP SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI AFB

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, OTRA, IT

SUBJECT: CONTRACTOR OPERATION OF BAKER-NUNN STATIONS AND  
POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF SAME

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NATO OFFICE DIRECTOR NOTIFIED  
ON JULY 18 THAT USAF NOW FOUND IT NECESSARY TO EMPLOY CIVILIAN  
CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES IN LIEU OF USAF MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR  
OPERATION OF BAKER-NUNN STATIONS WORLD-WIDE, INCLUDING THE  
STATION AT SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI. EMBOFF AND NATO OFFICE  
CHIEF REVIEWED TOGETHER ARTICLE I OF DOCUMENT VII OF THE  
1954 BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT WHICH EXTENDS SOFA  
TREATMENT TO "TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES OF FIRMS HAVING SPECIAL  
RELATIONS WITH US ARMED FORCES, WHEN SUCH PERSONS COME TO ITALY  
FOR OTHER THAN TEMPORARY VISITS".

2. ONCE HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THESE TECH REPS WERE  
REPLACING US MILITARY PERSONNEL AND NOT REPLACING LOCAL  
NATIONAL EMPLOYEES, MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT SUCH A CHANGE  
WAS WITHIN TERMS OF AGREEMENT AND SO US FORCES SHOULD  
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FOLLOW NORMAL PATTERN CONCERNING TECH REP HOUSEKEEPING

RELATIONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES OF GOI.

3. HE DID, HOWEVER, STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT GOI WOULD PREFER THAT NEW EMPLOYEES: A) BE U.S. CITIZENS TRAVELLING ON US OFFICIAL PASSPORTS; B) BE ISSUED ID'S AS CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF USAF OR DOD; AND C) IDENTIFY THEMSELVES IN OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS AS CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF USG AND NOT AS EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATE CONTRACTOR. HE ALSO ASKED USG TO PROMISE THAT CHANGE NOT RESULT IN REDUCTION IN ITALIAN EMPLOYMENT AT SAN VITO AND THAT PUBLICITY REGARDING THE CHANGE BE HELD TO A MINIMUM.

4. EMBOFF ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT BAKER-NUNN FACILITY MIGHT NEED TO BE RELOCATED TO SOME OTHER SITE IN ITALY OWING TO TECHNICAL NIGHT-SKY PROBLEMS, AND ASKED FOR OPINION OF MFA NATO OFFICE AS TO ACCEPTABILITY OF SUCH A CHANGE. NATO OFFICE CHIEF RESPONDED THAT BUREAUCRATIC STEPS WOULD BE MINIMIZED AND CHANCE FOR PROMPT ACTION OPTIMIZED SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO RELOCATE BAKER-NUNN STATION TO AN INSTALLATION AT WHICH THE USG WAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED SATELITTE RELATED FACILITIES AND WHERE ADDITION OF 13 U.S. TECHNICIANS PLUS FAMILIES WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR EITHER RE PUBLIC EXPOSURE OR RE NUMBER AUTHORIZED IN EXISTING BASE RIGHTS AGREEMENT.

5. NATO OFFICE CHIEF CONCLUDED THAT FORMAL (WRITTEN) GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION NOT REQUIRED CONCERNING CONVERSION TO CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL BUT WOULD DEFINITELY BE NECESSARY CONCERNING RELOCATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**TAGS:** MARR, TSPA, OTRA, IT, US  
**To:** STATE  
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